Translation of a Letter enclosed to Mr L from Revd. C. A. C. Panchard Minister of the Evangelical Chapel at Havre Secretary of the Society of Havre for promoting the Gospel amongst the French in those parts addressed to a Minister at Boston with a request for copies to be taken & forwarded & distributed as opportunities might offer

Havre 20 Feby. 1838

Dear & Honored Brother

Our friend Mr L having kindly informed us that our Society's 3d Report had been favorably received & that you are desirous of entering into correspondence with us on its interests with respect to the advancement of the kingdom of God in our City, we avail ourselves earnestly of this opportunity & shall add a few details to those already published.

Havre is a City whose importance is daily increasing being of similar consequence to France as Liverpool is to England & presents in respect to religion the most sombre aspect. The population in general is Catholic by birth, is divided between the ordinary ignorance of Popish cities & the excessive love of Money & thirst for dissipation. A superstition worthy of the Middle Ages & a total indifference for religion alike prevail there. Infidelity there walks erect, [illegible] A total disregard of the Lords Day prevails & excesses of intemperance & libertinism exceed those incident to sea ports in as much as there is not even the form of piety to repress or cast a shade over them. The Protestants are principally Foreigners of various Nations who come to the City for traffic & have formed some Congregations few in number of which two only are nourished with Orthodox Doctrines One is the Chapel for Seamen founded by the New York Seamen's friend Society & the other is that which it has pleased the Lord to permit us to form for the Evangelization of the French. Both bear opprobrium in the eyes of the World for the name of Jesus, (the former for English & Americans & the latter for the French) because they proclaim Jesus Christ & Jesus Christ crucified. There not many of the rich, the noble or the powerful unite with us & offer a generous support to the cause of the Gospel. On the other hand in so Commercial a place as Havre with the continual transit of Strangers in large numbers & where Warehouses encroach upon all the dwellings, the Exps.

of Worship & of the School are double & treble those of other places - Notwithstanding that the Divine Blessin permits us to accomplish the 4th year of our Society, to supp a Chapel & an Infant School, we have besides made grea sacrifices for the establishment of a Religious Library & to concur in the dissemination of God's Word & of Tracts by means of Hawkers (Colporteurs); but we are at this momen in arrears & if our friends abroad do not aid us to acquit our debts & to provide for the engagements of the Year we fear we shall be in great difficulties & compelled to suspend our operations, instead of being able to extend our labours so necessary in a City which offers so wide a field for Christ Activity we should be compelled to wait till the Lord him-self shall come to the aid of his people without being able to enjoy the glorious privilege of being fellow labourers with him - One resource would still remain that of joining the Evangelical Society of France, but this Society having itself scarcely sufficient resources for its own wants, could but feebly support us. Oh My Dear Brother think that for a population within the radius of 1 a 2 miles of abou 40000 inhabitants there is not one School in which the Truth is taught except our Infant School & our Sunday Scho which do not together contain 1/60 part of the Children, think that for this multitude of French Seamen the is not one single Evangelist who goes to visit them & offe them the Bible & Tracts. If it were not for some Christ of the 2 Congregations, there would not be a single mean of Spiritual Succour. And finally for this multitude of inhabitants, I with my Dear Brother the American Chaplai am the only witness for the Truth, the only Messenger of Good News - This Sketch altho' very slight, will we dou not suffice with the details already known to convince you of the importance of the work in which God in his goodness perm us to labour. Dear Brother in Jesus we do not know your pecuniary circumstances, we do not know if in concert with your friends & the Members of your Church you are in a conditi of giving us any aid - But whatever may be your situation we depend upon the communion of your prayers not less th upon your liberality & we leave it to the Sovereign Pastor of Sou to render to you in present & eternal blessings all that it shall have pleased you to do & to ask of Him in our favor.

Depend upon our gratitude & our very cordial & fraternal devotion in the communion of Saints -

That Grace & Peace

may abound amongst you for the love of Jesus is the Prayer of

Your Brother & fellow Servant
in Christ

Signed Edwd Panchaud
Minister of the Gospel
Secy. to the Havre Evangelical
Society

Havre, 20th Feb. 138